



THE WOODPECKER

Happy New 25th Year

Despite the Covid 19 virus causing the workshop to shutdown for 29 weeks there were a number of positives achieved during 2020. In particular, toys were still made & donated to a number of charities & the dust extractor was finally given approval to be used.

2021 will see the club have its 25th birthday. It should be noted that the club was started before the concept of Men's Sheds. Consequently this birthday should be celebrated for what it has grown to over the 25 years. A committee has been formed by Dennis Conner to manage all arrangements. The first decision agreed is that it will be a Sunday luncheon on Sunday 11th April at the Rye Hotel.

Be sure to put the date in your diary. Partners Welcome

Workshop Safety

A highlight at the General Meeting on the 10th March will be a demonstration on how to safely use the new thicknesser & the existing dual drum sander (DDS). Many members use the dual drum sander as though it is a thicknesser & try to take off too much timber at a single go. Consequently the sandpaper on the first drum is immediately shredded. Each roll of sand paper costs \$75 so members are encouraged to seek session leader assistance when using the DDS.

Session leaders are encouraged to take the attitude "not on my watch"

Invite from Toys Team

The Toy Team invites all members to join them each Wednesday in making toys for Christmas 2021. In a convivial & social atmosphere members can either make toys of their own design or be allocated toys or tasks to make.

The first toy making session is on 20th January. Come along & have some fun, meet other members and contribute to a good cause.

New Workshop Telephone Number

Recently the committee decided it could save money by changing to an Aldi Mobile account. Now the new workshop Mobile number is **0492 952 052**

Remember to update your records & store the new number.

Note:

Toy Making Begins	20 th January
Public Holiday	26 th January
General Meeting	10 th March

One year, I decided to buy my mother-in-law a cemetery plot as a Christmas gift.

The next year, I didn't buy her a gift. When she asked me why, I replied,

"Well, you still haven't used the gift I bought you last year!"

And that's how the fight started.....

Beginners to Wood Turning

If you are a beginner to wood turning you are encouraged to attend the “Wood Turning for Beginners” being run on Thursday mornings.

Rod Bew is be the session leader and will lead the beginners through the initial stages of learning.

Beginners will be provided timber to round from a square piece of wood, turn a spinning top, a dibbler, an egg cup and then a lidded box. These projects will introduce the student to the roughing gouge, skew chisel, bowl gouge, scraper & the spindle gouge. Sanding & polishing techniques will be demonstrated.

After graduation the student will be expected to provide their own sand paper & polish. They should also consider purchasing their own eye protection, a dust mask & ear muffs.

Monday Maintenance

The Monday maintenance team is looking for assistance in ensuring the workshop runs smoothly. It’s time consuming doing the routine activities of emptying bins, cleaning floors & replacing sand paper rolls. Especially when the new thicknesser needs a new dust extraction duct, a new 3 phase power outlet & has to be bolted to the floor.

If you cannot help on the Monday but want to help you can talk to anyone on the committee and volunteer your assistance. Recently Tony Haigh identified how difficult it was to find an item in our existing storage of lathe accessories. After putting his suggestion to the President he was given the go ahead to “make it happen”.

With the help of the Friday PM session attendees Tony set up a new lathe accessory storage area. Well done guys.



The club is still trying to streamline its processes. If you have a suggestion to make things better, speak up and be prepared to help. However please recognise that while suggestions are welcome not all will be accepted.

2020 Christmas Luncheon

The luncheon was a most enjoyable day. Everyone had a chance to chat & eat. The highlight of the day was the naming of the best club person of the year. Being a year interrupted by the Covid virus the committee decided to award the Best Club Person award to all the members of the Toy Team who made over 600 toys for the under privileged children without the access to the facilities of the workshop.



Some photos from the 2020 Christmas luncheon.

Gerry Gilliland's Passion

WoSP provides for members to do their thing, whether it is toy making, turning or carpentry. Its structure allows for the development of strong social relationships. Gerry Gilliland is a toy maker who loves the social aspects of the club; however few members are aware of his passion to build models.



When Gerry joined the club in 2012 he had already started building the coal driven paddle steamer "HYGEIA". He bought the scaled down plans "Float a Boat", a models & hobbies shop, and set about the challenge.

Fortunately he had a milling machine and a band saw but had to purchase some specific tools. Holding very small nails to hammer was an issue so he had to make a jig designed to hold the small nails so he could tap them in as required.

From the plans he had to make every seat, hand rail, chimney, etc. to scale. The finished detail is exquisite. His patience & perseverance allowed him to complete the model after 4 years.



The PS 'Hygeia' was a coal driven paddle steamer, built in Glasgow, Scotland, in 1890. When the paddle steamer was built, she was considered the largest and fastest bay steamer afloat. She was capable of carrying up to 2,000 passengers and crew and was finished to the highest of standards. The state rooms were lavishly adorned in polished Oak, Hungarian Ash, Walnut and Sycamore – decorated with gilded pilasters.

She was used to provide transport around Port Phillip Bay as there were no roads outside the city of Melbourne. She would start at St. Kilda & stop at Frankston, Mornington, Rye, Sorrento & Queenscliff transporting picnickers, business people & commercial goods. At each stop over passengers were met by real estate agents trying to sell parcels of land in the area. At Sorrento, picnickers could catch the steam tramway to the back beach. The tram tracks are long gone but the original stone ticketing office still stands in the main street of Sorrento today.

During her career of 41 years she carried some 3,000,000 passengers around Port Phillip Bay.

With the development of a road network outside of Melbourne the PS 'Hygeia' had outlived her usefulness. Although she was considered far too young to be scuttled on 9 Jun 1932 was sent to an early grave some 6.5 km outside of Port Phillip Heads:

Gerry has donated the model to the Sorrento Museum & there will be an official handover in mid 2021.